

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-13 USIA-06  
COME-00 TRSE-00 EPG-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03  
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /082 W  
-----210315Z 102984 /73

R 201400Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7653  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR USDEL/FAO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, FAO, UR, PFOR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET FOOD AID

1. WHILE WE ASSUME THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSION IN ROME MAY HAVE HEARD SAME THEME IN GREAT DETAIL, WE BELIEVE THAT INFORMAL COMMENTS MADE BY VLADIMIR MORDVINOV TO E/C COUNSELOR MAY 18 IN MOSCOW ARE ILLUSTRATIVE OF SOVIET THINKING TOWARDS FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THIRD WORLD. MORDVINOV, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR SOVIET STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE (GOSPLAN), ATTENDED SESSION IN ROME AND STRONGLY HINTED THAT HE WILL LEAD SOVIET DELEGATION TO MANILA.

2. MORDVINOV TOOK POSITION THAT US AND SOVIETS HAVE A GOOD DEAL IN COMMON IN REACTING TO WHAT HE INDICATED WERE GRANDIOSE ASPIRATIONS AND UNREALISTIC DEMANDS OF THE "77". AS LONG AS THE THIRD WORLD CONFINES ITSELF TO FAIRLY GENERAL GOALS, THIS DOES NOT PRESENT TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM, BUT IN ROME THEIR DEMANDS HAD EXTENDED TO FIRM AND UNREASONABLE COMMITMENTS OF FOOD AID WHICH WENT BEYOND FRAMEWORK AGREED ON IN THE UNITED NATIONS, HE SAID. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION, MORDVINOV STATED THAT THE SOVIET

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UNION AND - HE THOUGHT - EASTERN EUROPE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO MUCH SPECIFICALLY IN THE WAY OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE WORLD'S HUNGRY NATIONS.

3. MENTIONING THE FACT THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN HANNAH, MORDVINOV COMMENTED THAT HANNAH APPARENTLY FELT OBLIGED BY HIS OFFICE TO ENDORSE SOME OF THE VIEWS OF THE "77."

4. MORDVINOV SAID IT WAS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE WOULD BE DESIGNATED AS HEAD OF SOVIET DELEGATION TO MANILA. HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT NOT BE TOO WELL RECEIVED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HOPING THAT SOVIET MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WOULD PERFORM THIS FUNCTION. MORDVINOV JOKED THAT, AS GOSPLAN OFFICIAL, IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR HIM TO SPEAK IN GOSSAMER VEIN, OFFERING NON-COMMITTAL PROSPECTS FOR INCORPORATION OF FOOD AID IN SOME FAR-OFF ECONOMIC PLAN.

5. COMMENT: SINCE MORDVINOV HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS CAREER IN FOREIGN TRADE AND IS SOMETHING OF A SPECIALIST ON INTERNATIONAL FOOD MATTERS, IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING TO SEE HIM HEAD SOVIET DELEGATION TO MANILA. HIS VIEWS, THOUGH EXPRESSED SOMEWHAT AIRLY, STRIKES US AS PRETTY MUCH THE AUTHENTIC SOVIET POSITION. STALWART ADVOCATES OF ASSISTANCE, BY OTHERS, TO THE THIRD WORLD, THE SOVIETS HAVE NO TROUBLE IDENTIFYING THE FAILURE OF WESTERN COUNTRIES TO DO THEIR DUTY. BUT THEY ARE CHARY ABOUT MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS OF THEIR OWN, ESPECIALLY THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS. AND, OF COURSE, THE SOVIETS DO NOT HAVE ALL THAT MUCH FOOD TO GIVE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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